

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06870 182056Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

SCS-03 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 OC-06 OPR-02

USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-10 NEA-10 DRC-01 /199 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3631

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: MORE ARGENTINE REACTION TO CHILE

REF BA 6804

1. SUMMARY. THE LARGE BUT ORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE
COUP BY POLITICAL YOUTH GROUPS CONTINUE. EVENTUAL GOA RECOGNITION
OF THE JUNTA IS LIKELY HOWEVER. END SUMMARY

2. FRIDAY, SEP 14, SAW A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS PASS
DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THIS EMBASSY. IN ALL PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT
SUCH ACTION THE POLICE HAD BLOCKED OFF THE NARROW DOWNTOWN
STREET WHERE THE EMBASSY IS LOCATED TO PREVENT ACCESS TO THE
EMBASSY. HOWEVER, THE DEMONSTRATORS CONFINED THEMSELVES TO CHANTING
ANTI US SLOGANS AND OBSCENITIES. THE WEEKEND AS A WHOLE PASSED
WITHOUT INCIDENT DESPITE EARLIER INFORMATION THAT VIOLENT ACTS

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06870 182056Z

MIGHT BE ATTEMPTED (SEE REFTEL).

3. A RALLY HELD SUNDAY NIGHT, SEP 16, BY VARIOUS POLITICAL YOUTH GROUPS PRODUCED THE LARGEST CROWD IN ANY OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS THUS FAR AGAINST THE COUP. THE DEMONSTRATORS, ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 70,000 AND 100,000 BY ONE NEWSPAPER, MARCHED FROM THE PLAZA DEL CONGRESO TO THE CHILEAN EMBASSY. THE THEME WAS SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND DENUNCIATION OF THE US FOR ITS ALLEGED PART IN THE COUP. AS IN THE PREVIOUS RALLIES FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE CROWD WAS ORDERLY AND NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE OR POLICE INTERFERENCE WERE REPORTED. THIS RALLY WAS ALSO USED TO PROTEST THE PLANS OF OTHER GROUPS TO HOLD THE USUAL ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF THE MILITARY COUP WHICH OVERTHREW PERON ON THE SAME DATE IN 1955 AND SOME OF THE PERONIST DEMONSTRATORS APPEARED MORE INTERESTED IN THAT ASPECT THAN IN PROTESTING EVENTS IN CHILE. NEVERTHELESS, ON THE SAME DAY, ADMIRAL ROJAS AND A GROUP OF ANTI-PERONISTS HELD THEIR OWN CEREMONY RECALLING THE 1955 REVOLUTION AT THE GRAVE OF GENERAL ARAMBURU AND AT THE CHACARITA CEMETERY.

4. IN A MEETING THAT WAS HELD TO PLAN THE ABOVE DEMONSTRATION, ONE PERONIST YOUTH LEADER SAID THAT VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE SENT TO CHILE TO HELP CARRY ON THE RESISTANCE IF THE FRENTE PATRIOTICO CHILENO REQUESTED IT. HE ALSO CONDEMNED US POLICY WHICH HE SAID WAS AIMED AT FENCING IN POPULAR LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE COUP WAS A PART OF THAT POLICY.

5. THE LABOR SECTOR HAS ALSO REGISTERED SOME REACTION. A THREE HOUR STRIKE WAS CALLED IN CORDOBA ON SEP 14 AND THE CGT HELD A 15 MINUTE GENERAL STRIKE YESTERDAY MORNING, SEP 17. ESSENTIALLY, HOWEVER, LABOR SECTOR REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT, DESPITE SOME FIERY RHETORIC, IN VIEW OF ITS GENERAL ANTI-COMMUNIST ORIENTATION AND SIPUTE WITH LEFTIST PERONIST YOUTH.

6. ON SEP 14, THE MOVIMIENTO DE INTERGRACION Y DESARROLLO (MID) BLOCK OF DEPUTIES, INTRODUCED A PROPOSAL IN CONGRESS CALLING FOR A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER AND OCCUPATIONS OF ALL US CITIZENS INCLUDING MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL LIVING IN ARGENTINA. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 06870 182056Z

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL WAS "TO TAKE PREPARATIONS IN CASE INCIDENTS SIMILAR TO CHILE HAPPEN IN ARGENTINA."

7. PERSON SAID ON SEP 14 THAT CUTTING RELATIONS WITH CHILE IS MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER AND THAT HE WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT. HE MADE NO FURTHER MENTION OF HIS EARLIER ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT. PERON ALSO SAID THAT THERE IS A 50 YEAR ARGENTINE TRADITION OF NONINTERFERENCE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

WHICH SHOULDN'T BE ERASED. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY A RELIABLE SOURCE IN FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE GOA DECISION REGARDING RECOGNITION OF JUNTA WILL BE MADE THIS WEEK. GIVEN PERON'S STATEMENTS, THE LONG COMMON BORDER AND ECONOMIC TIES, GOA RECOGNITION IS EXPECTED DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM THE CONGRESS, SOME POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEFTIST GROUPS. END COMMENT.

8. GENERAL CARLOS PRATS IS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO HAVE CROSSED OVER INTO ARGENTINA AT MENDOZA ON SEP 16. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "I'M COMING IN ORDER NOT TO BE A DISTURBING FACTOR IN THE COHESION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND SO THAT MY NAME WON'T BE USED AS AN ELEMENT OF THE TRAGIC STRUGGLE FOR THE NATION."

9. THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA, RAMON RUIDOBRO DOMINGUEZ TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. MINISTER COUNSELOR JAVIER ILLANES FERNANDEZ IS NOW ACTING AS CHARGE.

10. A "PEOPLES FUNERAL" IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TONIGHT, SEP 18, TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF ALLENDE. ONE FEDERAL POLICE SOURCE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE LEADERS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PLAN TO MARCH TO THE EMBASSY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CEREMONIES AT PLAZA CONGRESO.
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